

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting of June 2, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Ted Packard, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Doug Greenfield, Chad Gibson, and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32.

Introductions. Chad introduced himself, and we briefly discussed the progress of the Bicycle Safety Bill.

*The minutes from the May meeting were adopted with two minor corrections.

Comments on new banners installed above the entrances of Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington Center. We all agreed that we like the new banners very much. All the comments we have received thus far have been positive.

Review of recent events, including the BIKE-Arlington Tour, Arlington Police Safety Fair, Redbones Bike Party, etc. Stephan said that the crowd was small at the tour considering the weather. Those that attended thought the route was interesting. Some stories about the ride were told. We decided to do the ride again next year. We discussed some possible new routes to try out. One possible starting point could be at McClennen Park and use the newly redone Route 2A. Some thought starting at Hurd Field or the Reservoir could also be nice.

Jack and Ted attended the Police Safety Fair and adjusted 4-5 dozen kids' bicycle helmets. There was also a bike rodeo but it was sparsely attended. We wondered if we could get the police to give us (and everyone else) more warning next year so that we could better prepare for the event.

Ted gave us a summary about the Redbone's Bike Party. Doug told us about a bicycle tour he participated in Cambridge. The focus was visiting sites of alternative transportation options.

Update on meeting of Minuteman Bikeway Communities, scheduled for Thursday night, June 12, Cary Hall, Lexington Center. Jack told us that the meeting will take place from 7-9 pm. Joey suggested that we discuss the celebration of the induction of the bikeway into the Hall of Fame. Joey also informed us that the issue of harassment on the bike path will be discussed.

Discussion of idea for a bikeway photo contest. Joey explained that we need new pictures of the bikeway for the new brochures. She suggested that a contest could be part of the celebration.

Discussion on planning for ABAC's Town Day booth in September. Applications for space at Town Day are due next month. Jack will register us and specify our favorite location. We decided to sell the Rubel Bicycle Maps again this year. We will also sell a selection of books as in past years. We discussed various kinds of annotated maps of Arlington that we could create that would be useful to the fledgling cyclists we see at this event.

Discussion of recent reports of assaults on the bikeway. There have been a number of complaints about teens harassing cyclists on the path in Arlington. Reports of throwing sticks into the spokes of passing bicycles and pushing people off their bikes have been made. Chad told us that he had an object thrown at him. The police have been notified multiple times.

Discussion of possible guest speakers for future ABAC meetings. Ron suggested that we really should have a stronger relationship with the Arlington Police. Scott thought a get-together with one or more of our state representatives would be informative. Joey nominated Craig Della Penna to speak about bikeways. Chad would like to hear Scott summarize the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project. Ted thought perhaps someone from Bikes Not Bombs. Jeff would like to hear more about the correct design and construction of bicycle lanes.

Review of upcoming events, including future ABAC meeting dates. Jack reminded us that there will be no meeting in July this year.

Open Forum/general discussion. Jeff would like to see some interim solution to the problem of the bikeway crossing in Arlington Center. He would also like to see a bike lane somewhere in Arlington or at least a share the road sign.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.